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On Nov. 15, 1966, Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. called a Mayor's Conference on Housing, to serve notice that housing was getting priority in the attempt to solve Atlanta's problems.

Allen knew precisely what he wanted and from whom he wanted it. The goal was 16,800 housing units for low-income families by 1972. More than that, he wanted the first 9,800 units completed by December, 1968.

To ride herd on the program, he appointed a group of civic leaders to a new organization, the Housing Resources Committee, which was to get the cooperation required from public agencies and private interests.

As director of the HRC, Allen appointed Malcolm Jones, a former Army colonel who had come to Atlanta upon his retirement in 1956 to prepare the city's Workable Program, a prerequisite for obtaining funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The HRC effectively began operation in January, 1967. Its first action, ^S/~~X~~ says Jones, was to let it be known that ^Upeople who had land they wanted to sell could list it with us."

HRC inspects the land offered for sale to determine whether it is suitable for development of low-income housing. The committee also maintains a list of developers interested in low-income housing. One of its functions is to bring developer and land seller together.

If a sale ~~and~~ is negotiated, HRC is available to the developer to help solve problems with city agencies.

"When people run into a bottleneck," says Jones, "they

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usually come to us to help get the ball rolling again."

Jones works closely with both Allen and the mayor's right-hand man Dan Sweat.

HRC is not always successful in getting the action requested. When National Homes wanted permission to use prefabricated plumbing and electrical systems, HRC carried the request to the city and was turned down.

Still, HRC is exerting an influence on the rate of production of low-income housing. Its chairman, architect Cecil Alexander, is a busy public speaker, averaging three talks a week. HRC was instrumental in organizing Atlanta's all-day conference on open housing earlier this year, and it has been in the thick of the rezoning battles which accompany most low-income housing projects.

There is some evidence, also, that HRC helped organize the Housing Development Corp., a nonprofit organization which will provide technical and financial assistance to other nonprofit organizations which want to develop housing. HDC may also bank land.

The Housing Resources Committee reports periodically on the progress of Mayor Allen's crash housing program. After one year, HRC reported that 1,312 units had been completed, another 3,701 were under construction and would be ready for occupancy by the end of the year—a total of 5,013 units, or nearly 4,800 units short of Allen's goal for the end of 1968.

But there isn't much betting that the ultimate goal of 16,800 units won't be reached. Allen has demonstrated before he has the capacity to get things done. When, several

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years ago, he decided Atlanta should have major league sports, he pushed through a bond issue for a stadium, then went shopping for a major league franchise. He got three.

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